

Iraq, Poland start economic talks

BAGHDAD (AP) — Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski started talks Saturday with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations, the participation of Polish companies in postwar reconstruction and international issues, embassy officials said. They said Rakowski met with Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan. The meeting was later attended by senior aides of the two officials and representatives of enterprises involved in joint ventures in Iraq. The Polish official arrived Friday evening. Rakowski told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) that Poland is keen to take part in the reconstruction campaign in Iraq and help in development projects. Iraq is one of Poland's largest trading partners, with a number of Polish firms involved in major development and construction programmes. The Polish construction company Dromex is currently building a multi-million dollar highway that will link the Syrian-Jordanian border in western Iraq with the Kuwaiti border in the south.

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Ramtha development seminar ends

RAMTHA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday said that the recommendations discussed during the development meetings here are subject to implementation at any time. Addressing the final session of the North Region Development Seminar, Prince Hassan said: "We must inform the citizens (on all levels) of what is achieved during these meetings by demonstrating the actual role of the local governments. Calling for the implementation of these recommendations within a limited period of time, Prince Hassan urged all citizens to refrain from 'demand behaviour.' In light of the new division of the districts we must talk about the concept of homogeneity in the local development among the provinces, so that it would be a turning point toward reinforcing the broad basis for centralised information in every region." Prince Hassan added, The Crown Prince noted that decentralisation and public participation does not mean that the centre abandons its responsibility toward the region. Centralisation is an open invitation for active contribution in choosing suitable priorities and thinking, Crown Prince Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi and a number of ministers participated in the discussions.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday speaks at the opening of the three-day conference of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities held in Amman (Petra photos)

Israeli soldiers kill 3 Palestinians, injure 17 in continued Gaza protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinians and wounded at least 17 others Saturday in a bloody day of violent clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab reports said. The Israeli army confirmed that several Palestinians were killed and others wounded in protests in Gaza City, but could not provide a definite figure. A spokesman said the reports were being checked. An Arab reporter in Gaza City said the demonstrations broke out after Israeli police, accompanied by a gravel-firing machine, arrived in four jeeps to the Sheikh Rajwan neighbourhood and glued placards to house walls calling on the residents to maintain quiet.

"What's the benefit of a demolished house, a killed son?" The reporter, who requested anonymity, quoted the placards as saying. Palestinians angered by the posters gathered at the local mosque where loudspeakers called for a "fight against the army," he said. Protesters took to the streets, pelting the soldiers with rocks, he said. Youths erected roadblocks and burned tyres in other areas of Gaza City and the refugee camps of Rafah and Jabalya, Arab accounts said. On a central Gaza City street, an Arab wearing a shirt in the colours of the banned Palestinian flag was forced to take it off, and then was beaten by soldiers as a crowd of Palestinians hurried stones from afar.

Merchants quickly shut down their stores and transportation came to a halt. Only army vehicles, ambulances and U.N. cars were seen in the streets, and thick columns of black smoke rose to the sky. "There are burning tyres and barricades everywhere," one Arab witness said. "It looks just like the beginning of the intifada," or the Palestinian uprising, with mass demonstrations of its early months. In Sheikh Rajwan, where troops opened fire to quell the protest, three Palestinians were killed, and at least 10 others, aged 15 to 30, were wounded, officials at Gaza's Shifa Hospital said. The army clamped a curfew on the neighbourhood.

Arab doctors identified the fatalities as Fawsi Mohammad Bahid, 20, and Abdul Nasser Sherif, 16, who were both shot in the chest, and Majdi Kourani, 19, who was shot in the neck. Seven other Palestinians were wounded elsewhere in Gaza City and the seaside Gaza Strip, said doctors at Shifa and Ahli Arab Hospitals in Gaza City. Some 200 youths surrounded Shifa Hospital, where the slain Arabs were brought, and clashed with soldiers, an Arab reporter said. The deaths brought to 399 the official number of Arabs killed since the uprising began on Dec. 8, 1987, to demand an end to the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Crown Prince opens OICC conference Prince Hassan voices 'absolute support' for Palestinian uprising

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday saluted the oppressed Palestinian people and paid tribute to their heroic struggle in the face of repression and injustice.

"We extend our hands to the people of Palestine in expression of absolute support for their uprising to regain legitimate Arab rights and restore Jerusalem to Arab and Islamic sovereignty," the Regent said in an address at the opening of the three-day conference of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC). "What is happening in occupied Arab territories in general and Jerusalem in particular represents a symbol of cultural challenge taking place at a critical moment of our history. Therefore, we salute the Palestinian people and their blessed revolt, and support the Palestinian efforts as they strive to achieve peace in the holy city which should be open to all religions and should enjoy tranquility and peace, free of all forms of intimidation and injustice," the Regent said.

"We are meeting here today a few kilometres away from the holy city of Jerusalem which is still under the yoke of occupation rule — a city which embodies the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock, as well as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

raging with a rebellion against injustice and repression," Prince Hassan said. Occupation, he added, is one aspect of the numerous cultural, economic and technological challenges that confronts the Arab and Islamic World "which is still grappling with hunger, poverty and illiteracy despite its vast potentials and immense wealth." Despite the past efforts exerted to resolve the nation's basic problems and the continued struggle to deal with the challenges, Prince Hassan said, the Arab and Islamic nations have not yet attained the required level of action needed to deal with the real problems, raise the people's standard of living and ensure their basic necessities.

Jordan, Prince Hassan said, has realised the immense benefits of regional groupings and together with Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen forged the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which is aimed at helping the Arab nation confront the challenges.

"The ACC aims at deepening and enhancing inter-Arab cooperation and for this reason it is open for all Arabs to join in the effort," he added.

The Regent said the world is witnessing groupings in America, Europe, Asia and other part of the world since individual nations are incapable of confronting the numerous challenges and the growing needs of their masses.

The Arab capitals, Prince Hassan pointed out, will no doubt shoulder the major burden in creating a favourable atmosphere that would facilitate the process of cooperation. "For this reason the Arab capitals are called on to come up with the necessary

means that would ensure continued cooperation — which is of paramount importance in our modern age."

Prince Hassan noted that Arab and Islamic cities have become over-populated and are shouldering huge economic, social and health tasks for their citizens while the rural regions lack development and investment opportunities.

He said a well balanced society "is one that can succeed in making a fair distribution of population, offering the rural regions a chance for development and easing the burdens from the cities."

Other speakers included Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawhleh and the OICC Secretary General Abdul Qader Koshak, who said that the delegates will discuss subjects related to cities organisation, cooperation among Arab and Islamic cities, exchanges of visits by officials, research work, seminars and municipal services, the protection of the environment and other related topics.

During the conference a seminar on numbering of streets in Islamic cities will be held.

At the end of the opening session, the OICC Secretary General presented the Regent with the organisation's shield.

Later Prince Hassan opened an exhibition by five participating cities displaying samples of architectural designs, maps and other illustrated charts.

Regent receives Lebanese message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday received a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from President of the People's Conference of the Lebanese Islamic Forces Kamal Shatila.

The message included a review of the Israeli savage practices in South Lebanon, particularly in Shab'a, which are designed to drive the Lebanese out of their home and replace them by Ethiopian Jews. Shatila also appealed for immediate U.N. interference, through UNIFIL, to rescue the region from Israel's aggressive schemes.

Arafat, Czech leader discuss Mideast

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (Agencies) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat left Saturday after meeting with Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Milos Jakes, the Czech News Agency (CTK) reported.

Arafat met with Jakes late Friday night before leaving Saturday for an unknown destination.

The party daily newspaper Rude Pravo said Saturday that Arafat's "short working visit" included discussions with Jakes on current international issues with an emphasis on the Middle East.

The two leaders also talked about cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is trying to create an independent Palestinian state in the Middle East.

Before coming to Prague, Arafat visited Hungarian officials.

While in Budapest Friday, Arafat called the decision by U.S. President George Bush to continue the country's diplomatic dialogue with the PLO "a very important step which will help the peace process in the Middle East."

The next round of U.S.-PLO talks reportedly is scheduled in Tunisia next week.

Arafat also denied that attacks against the Israeli army in southern Lebanon were acts of terrorism, saying that one should not confuse "resistance against aggression with terrorism."

Pointing to Israeli attacks against Palestinian strongholds, Arafat said, "those who are defending themselves cannot be named terrorists."

Rude Pravo also reported that Jakes is scheduled to visit Syria

on April 10-11, without providing details on the purpose of his visit.

Hungary has offered to host an international peace conference on the Middle East and play a mediating role in the conflict.

The offer came at a Friday meeting between Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth and Arafat.

Arafat told Nemeth he agreed with a Soviet proposal that a Middle East peace conference should begin in six to nine months, Hungarian News Agency (MTI) reported.

"At the request of Mr. Arafat, the Hungarian government gave the promise that it would organise the international conference," it said.

The PLO and most members of the United Nations — but not Israel — favour convening an international Middle East peace conference under U.N. auspices.

Western diplomats said Hungary's offer reflected its belief in the ability of small countries to act as a bridge. Hungary often boasts of having kept East-West dialogue alive at a time of superpower tension in the early 1980s.

Arafat said Friday West Germany and Britain had not helped PLO investigations into whether a Palestinian group had bombed a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Scotland.

"We started a process of investigation but unfortunately we did not get cooperation in this field..." Arafat told a news conference.

All 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground were killed when a radio-cassette bomb blasted the jet out of the sky over the town of Lockerbie in December.

An Israeli official said last month Western intelligence agencies suspected Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Asked if he was criticising Britain and West Germany, where the flight originated, the PLO chief said:

"I do not criticise, I am stating facts. I am not criticising them, but they did not cooperate... I have no information."

He added: "We are against the crime. It's an awful crime. We do not consider it a crime against Americans. We consider it a crime against humanity."

Beirut clashes continue

Junblatt warns ships to stay away from ports

BEIRUT (R) — Clashes between rival forces kept Lebanon's blockade war rumbling Saturday and a PSP leader warned ships to stay out of Falangist ports. Shortly after the warning from mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia chief Walid Junblatt several mortar shells hit Beirut port, controlled by predominantly Falangist troops loyal to Army Commander Major-General Michel Aoun. Shells also crashed into the Falangist-controlled port city of Jounieh. Some Falangist radio stations said they were fired by opposition Lebanese gunners but a station run by Aoun's forces claimed the projectiles were fired by Syrian gunners.

Opposition gunners have shelled Beirut port daily since March 6 when Aoun ordered his patrol boats and aircraft to blockade illegal militia harbours, the militia's main source of income.

The blockade sparked the worst sectarian fighting in two years Tuesday, when 43 people were killed and 140 wounded by a cross-city bombardment. Two ships were hit in shelling this week.

"We repeat our warning to ship owners and insurance companies to avoid using Beirut and Jounieh ports until further notice," said Junblatt.

He is minister of public works and tourism in a civilian administration led by Selim Hoss, vying for power with a military cabinet

headed by Aoun since last September.

The conflict has stopped flights to Beirut International Airport — Lebanon's only civilian air link with the outside world — and forced thousands of people to cancel trips into and out of the country.

Leaders of the opposition militia have said they will keep shelling Beirut Port in retaliation for Aoun's blockade, which he imposed to bring the militia harbours under government control.

Seven illegal ports run by militias have been a major source for essential supplies and arms in Lebanon's nearly 14 years of civil war.

Lebanese analysts said unless the 53-year-old army commander called off his blockade of the militia ports then all-out war was the most likely solution to the sectarian deadlock.

With both sides refusing to talk peace, rival forces fought with mortars, rockets and machineguns around their heavily fortified positions in the hills south east of Beirut.

A few shells hit Falangist-held residential areas in east Beirut Saturday.

The opposition militias have demanded that Aoun end his blockade before any ceasefire.

Aoun, who advocates a strong role for his government, has said only a Syrian military withdrawal from Lebanon would bring peace.

A car bomb exploded outside an east Beirut bakery crowded with shoppers Friday, killing 15 people and wounding 150 — many of whom had ventured out for the first time in four days.

The blast shattered glass in the nearby British consular office, which has been closed since last Monday due to security fears.

Lebanon committee to meet next week

Meanwhile, the chairman of an Arab League committee set up to solve the Lebanese crisis said Saturday it would invite former Lebanese presidents and prime ministers to meet with it in Tunis next week.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters the meeting would take place before an Arab foreign ministers conference scheduled for March 26, but he gave no precise date, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said.

A flare-up of fighting in Beirut last week that killed 43 people forced the indefinite postponement of a decisive third round of talks in Kuwait with party and militia chiefs.

Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassim, would travel to Beirut Sunday to deliver the invitations and hold talks with Aoun, his rival Selim Hoss, and leaders of the six main religious sects.

Nuseibeh calls for just peace in Mideast

BUDAPEST (Petra) — A member of Jordan's Upper House of Parliament said Saturday that Israel and the world community have a historic chance for the establishment of a just peace and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"If Israel chooses not to respond favourably to this chance then it should announce its rejection of the U.N. Security Council resolutions which aim to achieve that peace," Hazem Nuseibeh said in a speech before the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Budapest.

He said if peace is to be achieved Israel ought to accept the will of the international community and accept the idea of an international conference in which all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), can participate.

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United States is losing ground to the Soviet Union in the Middle East as Moscow proceeds with a more constructive and positive diplomacy in the region. A case in point is active Soviet political engagement in the Gulf area in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq war and its military disengagement from Afghanistan, paving the way for a more effective involvement.

Dr. Gary Sick, former chief White House aide for Iranian affairs, noted that the Soviet Union is taking a much more active role in Middle East politics, replacing its oppositional or rejectionist role of the past with a positive and constructive political engagement.

"The U.S. position in the Middle East has been to keep the Soviets out as much as possible," Sick said in an interview. "What we are seeing now is a more active Soviet policy that the U.S. cannot stop."

He observed that if the Soviets want to have diplomatic relations with Gulf states, "there is almost nothing the U.S. can do about that."

"The U.S. is going to have to reexamine some of the basic assumptions that it had about its

policy in the Middle East in the past, to take into account that there is now a new very active player in the region," Sick, who served on the National Security Council staff in three U.S. administrations, said.

He believes that from a U.S. point of view, Washington can play a limited role in a final peace treaty in the Iran-Iraq war, and only through cooperation with the Soviet Union and the United Nations, "I don't see the U.S. being a direct player in that role."

Sick envisages a U.S. cooperation with Moscow and the U.N. Security Council in establishing some kind of an international regime to begin the process of clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which he considers as the main stumbling block in the face of peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

"When you strip away all the superficial part of the discussions, it finally comes down to who controls the Shatt Al Arab River," Iraq says the river is entirely Iraqi while Iran wants the waterway divided as it was in the 1975 agreement.

"There is no obvious compromise of these positions. The best way to approach it in the near future is with some kind of an international regime which goes ahead and begins the pro-

cess of clearing the river to open it up to shipping. Letting some time go by is a good thing before trying to arrive at a final settlement. At the moment the peace talks are going no place."

On Soviet diplomacy in Iran, Sick, a professor of Middle East politics at the University of Columbia, asserted that Moscow's overtures to Tehran at a time when the Iranian regime was most isolated internationally had "one very clear objective."

He said Moscow was trying to maintain some degree of control over developments in Afghanistan and the outcome of the political battle for the future of the country. While the U.S. and Pakistan support the Sunni Mujahedeen against the Soviet-supported government of Najibullah, the Shiite Mujahedeen, who are mostly based in Iran, can play an important role as the third corner in the Afghanistan triangle.

"While the Iranians want to play a role in the creation of the new government, the Soviets also would like to have some leverage to oppose the complete takeover by the Pakistan-supported Mujahedeen."

"So, the Soviet relations with Iran give them an additional leverage over the situation in Afghanistan."

At this point, Sick contended,

Soviet and Iranian interests are almost identical. By keeping one party of this triangle from taking over entirely, the congruence of interest at the moment gives Moscow and Tehran a working relationship.

However, he describes the relationship as "a marriage of convenience" which could easily break up.

On the U.S. role in Afghanistan, the former White House aide said the U.S. had a close working relationship with the Mujahedeen in Pakistan, but that he did not think the Mujahedeen feel they owe the U.S. a great political debt.

"They don't have to take orders from the U.S.," he said that following the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan, the U.S. asked the Mujahedeen to return the Stinger missiles they were supplied by the U.S. for defence against Soviet air raids.

But the Mujahedeen have so far refused to return the missiles or even to sell them back to Washington.

"I think this is indicative of the level of influence the U.S. is going to have together with Pakistan... I am not at all optimistic about the degree of influence or control the U.S. will exercise in that process."

Dr. Sick is currently presenting

Hostage freedom hopes not hurt by Rushdie affair — U.K. envoy

LONDON (AP) — Britain's ambassador in Lebanon said Saturday the prospect of freedom for Western hostages in Beirut may not have been hurt by the controversy over Salman Rushdie's book The Satanic Verses.

"The general assumption is, I think, that the Rushdie affair has put back prospects of release. I am not sure that is correct," Ambassador Allan Ramsay said in a radio interview from Beirut on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"I was encouraged, I must say, by the statements made by some leading Muslim religious leaders who have said in very strong terms that there is no reason to continue holding hostages. This is very much a crime against

Islam," he said. But Ramsay warned: "I do not want to raise hopes and I do not want to sound over-optimistic."

The Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, on Feb. 14 called for Rushdie's execution for writing "The Satanic Verses," which Muslims say blasphemes Islam.

The 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) this week called Rushdie an apostate, which under Islamic Law is punishable by death, and demanded that the book be banned.

Asked about the release hopes for British hostages, Ramsay said: "We have been at great pains to stress that one need not affect the other — that the hos-

tage issue is essentially a humanitarian issue."

Fifteen foreign hostages are being held in Lebanon including Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, journalist John McCarthy and teacher Brian Keenan, who has dual British and Irish citizenship. Britain is also seeking word on journalist Alec Collett whose Palestinian abductors claim they killed him. His body was never found.

Ramsay played down suggestions that a car bomb blast Friday about 50 metres from the British embassy in east Beirut was intended for the embassy. "We had some windows blown out and one or two other bits knocked off — nothing very serious," he said.

a series of lectures on U.S. policy in the region in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the implications to the region.

On the spectre of renewed hostilities between Iran and Iraq, Sick, who is currently writing a book on the eight-year war, said he believes the war has ended. "Both parties are exhausted; the populations of both countries are extremely tired of the war and I see no evidence at this point that the war is going to resume."

One of the positive effects of the Iran-Iraq war, according to Sick, is that it distracted Iran from its original effort to export the revolution and to carry it over into other countries. "In fact it is now in no position to attempt to do that. They are so involved in their internal affairs that very little energy or time or resources are left to try in a major way to export the revolution. The threat was probably exaggerated at the beginning. The threat was never as great as the U.S. and the West in particular had made it out to be. But it has certainly been greatly reduced."

"Khomeini is a bitter man at this point. A lot of people see the revolution as having failed and failed to produce the results it was designed to. After ten years, a lot of people inside Iran, including high level officials, are critical."

Regional symposium tackles illiteracy

AMMAN (Petra) — A week long sub-regional symposium on the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab World opened in Amman Saturday with the participation of delegates from Jordan and eight Arab countries in addition to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which organised the meeting in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Khaled Al Sheikh from the Ministry of Education told the meeting that Jordan's illiterates account only to 16 per cent of the total number of adults and the ministry has worked out programmes designed to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000.

Dr. Ghazi Abu Shagra from the UNESCO office in Amman

reviewed the organisation's programmes in the drive to eradicate illiteracy and promote adult education services. The delegates are expected to examine and analyse matters related to the role and activities of authorities operating literacy centres, the use of modern technological facilities in these operations and new trends in spreading education at the national, regional and international levels.

UNESCO has made arrangements for a series of lectures, seminars, and workshops to be held during the meetings. The participants come from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Sudan, Palestine and North Yemen.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid Saturday opened an art exhibition by Moroccan artist Hashimi Azzah at the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Art. Present were Her Royal Highness Princess Wajdan Ali and a number of art lovers. The pieces of art deal with the social problems faced in the Arab World (Petra).

GOOD WISHES: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday received a cable from the Polish prime minister while the latter's plane was overflying the Jordanian air space. In his cable, the Polish leader conveyed good wishes to the Jordanian government and wished the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. He also expressed confidence that Jordanian-Polish friendship would continuously serve world peace (Petra).

TWO ARRESTED: An official military spokesman announced here Saturday that two infiltrators into Wadi Araba region in southern Jordan have been arrested after entering Jordanian territory from the west. The spokesman said that the two infiltrators who crossed into Jordan in the morning are being questioned by the appropriate authorities.

DUDIN RETURNS: Labour Minister Marwan Dudin Friday returned to Amman after leading the Jordanian delegation to the seventh session of the Arab Labour Conference (ALC) which convened in Rabat recently. The conference adopted a number of resolutions and restored Egypt's membership in the ALC (Petra).

NOISE: A medical team from the Queen Alia Foundation for Speech and Hearing is currently conducting a study on the effect of noise produced by vehicles on the health of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) drivers. The two-month study will include a field survey on the PTC employees (Petra).

TRADE: A Cypriot trade delegation will arrive in Amman on April 2, on a four-day visit to Jordan to meet with a number of officials in the private and public sectors. Sources from the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce said that the delegation will discuss means to bolster bilateral economic cooperation, increasing the size of trade exchange, and holding exhibitions so as to acquaint people with the products of the two countries (Petra).

INCREASED SALES: Jordanian pharmaceutical industry has witnessed increasing sales in Tunisia, a source from one of the Jordanian pharmaceutical industry companies said. He revealed that a \$100,000 order for Jordanian-made medicine was recently made by Tunisia. It includes, in particular, various kinds of anti-biotic medicines. The source added that as of the beginning of 1989, orders for Jordanian medicine increased as it proved its high quality (Petra).

VISIT: University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Majali Saturday received a British academic delegation which represent a number of British universities. Dr. Majali briefed the delegation on the university's scientific, academic, and cultural activities. The visit is designed to exchange views on entry requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Jordanian and British universities (Petra).

CELEBRATIONS: A delegation led by Bassam Qaqish will represent Aqaba Region Authority in Egypt's celebrations marking the return of Taba to Egyptian sovereignty (Petra).

DUTIES REDUCED: The Council of Ministers has approved the recommendations presented by the ministries of finance and customs, industry and trade, and supply on adjusting the customs tariff on a number of foodstuffs including dairy products. Customs duties on the import of these products were cut by a maximum of 20 per cent.

IMMORAL DEALINGS: The general director of publications has ordered the closure of two video stores in Ajloun and Na'our for dealing with immoral video films (Petra).

ONIONS: Sources at the Jordanian Company for the Production and Marketing of Agricultural Products said that huge quantities of dry onion have been on sale in the market at 250 fils a kilogramme. These sources said that over 700 tonnes of dry onion have arrived in Jordan, according to Al Dustour Arabic daily. Jordanian onion will be on sale in the market shortly, the paper said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismail displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalooz at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An Iraqi children's books and paintings exhibition at Salt Secondary School for Girls.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hasbemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture with slides, in German, by Dr. Karl Schmitt-Korte entitled "25 years of German-Jordanian Friendship Society" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- ★ A French play entitled "Vivre Libre ou Mourir" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poems and music from Bulgaria at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "A Swarm in May" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "The African Queen" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Atalla calls for joint ventures

Unaccorded importance contributed to tourism stagnation

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The absence of an "official" recognition of the importance of tourism has been one of the major factors contributing to the "poor" growth pattern of Jordan's tourism industry, according to Royal Jordanian's Marketing and Sales Vice President Ghassan Ali.

"The economic decision-makers have not been convinced that tourism is of major importance to the economy," Ali told members of the Scandinvian Friendship Association at a luncheon talk entitled "Tourism as a Profitable Industry to Jordan."

"The tourism industry should occupy a primary position in the development plans of the country," Ali said adding that it was high time the government revised its policy to give tourism the "priority which its potential dictates."

To support his statement Ali cited the number of tourists visiting Jordan throughout the 1980s. In 1981, he said, approximately half a million tourists visited Jordan. In 1985, that figure witnessed an increase by a mere 300,000 while the increase in the number of tourists between 1986 and 1987 was only 10,000.

Furthermore, Ali noted that the actual investment in tourism during the 1976-1980 period amounted to JD 22.8 million, the equivalent of 2.7 per cent of the country's total investments of JD 843.7 million.

He said the 1986-1990 five year development plan had allocated a mere JD 63.8 million for tourism out of a total of JD 3,115 million, or the equivalent of 2.0 per cent of total investments. In 1988, the Ministry of Tourism and RJ agreed to launch a JD 1 million plan for marketing and promotion in which each party would specify a JD 500,000 budget for its efforts. But, according to Ali, the amount approved by the government for the Ministry of Tourism did not exceed one third of the amount required and the ministry was left with a mere JD 120,000 for its 1989 advertising and promotion efforts.

In the absence of "a clear-cut official policy towards tourism... whom do we (RJ) appeal to for a choice of destinations?" Ali asked.

Stagnation

He summed up the situation as follows: "The lack of official governmental concern... represent the major reason (why) tourism in Jordan has stabilised, if not stagnated, in relative terms."

Other factors that have hindered growth in the tourism sector, according to Ali, include the country's infrastructure which he said was not conducive to the "facilitation of tourism."

"Outside the city of Amman, there is a great need for hotel rooms, rest houses, refreshment centres and sanitation facilities," he said, citing as an example the fact that Aqaba has only seven hotels in the three-star and above category. Petra has only one hotel with 73 rooms.

Ali cited the absence of a legal entity supervising professional and quasi-professional tourism organisations and interest groups as another factor hindering tourism growth in Jordan.

Despite all that, Ali pointed out, figures show a 25 per cent increase in the number of tourists between 1986 and 1988, from 1.9 million to 2.4 million — an increase which Ali said was due to RJ's efforts in selling Jordan as a tourist destination to the world at large.

A 1988 agreement designated RJ as the official representative of the Ministry of Tourism abroad.

Tourism, Ali asserted, can play a major role in supporting the government's policy of improving Jordan's balance of payments. He noted that investment in tourism did not require massive capital and that it took relatively little time to generate foreign revenues, especially in comparison to the industrial and agricultural sectors.

In addition, Jordan's present economic situation and the "reduced" value of the dinar

vis-a-vis foreign currencies presented Jordan with a marketing advantage in its competition with neighbouring tourist destinations.

Primary position

He cited Spain, Greece, Italy and Austria as examples of countries which have used unfavourable currency exchange rates to their advantage in establishing themselves in the tourist business. These countries, he said, had made tourism a major element in their economic foundations.

"The tourist industry should occupy a primary position in the developmental plans of this country which is striving for a more favourable balance of payments vis-a-vis foreign currency, as well as an improvement in the national employment rate," he asserted.

Also addressing members and guests of the Scandinvian Friendship Association was the Secretary General Nasri Atalla who said the challenge currently facing the tourism authorities in Jordan was two-fold: expanding the winter season market in the country in addition to increasing the yield from that market. The ministry, he said, is seeking to develop new activities and facilities to attract tourists specifically from Europe and North America.

The ministry's strategy, he said, was to continue to develop special interest activities and attractions in Jordan to attract what he referred to as "sophisticated visitors" who spend no less than a week in the country. These activities include scuba diving and snorkelling expeditions in the Red Sea, desert treks on camel-back, mountain climbing and hiking in Wadi Rum, custom-tailored desert safaris in addition to evening swims and banquets along the Dead Sea shore.

Opportunities

Attracting those tourists, he said, necessitates that "we forge closer business links between Jordanian and foreign investors." The specialised nature of Jordan's winter season attractions, he noted, provide "fruitful investment opportunities" for business interests and tour operators in Scandinavian countries.

The secretary general said recent developments in Jordan's tourism strategy, the continuing "liberalisation and internationalisation" of the economy as well as the evolving patterns of the global travel industry should drive Jordanian and Scandinavian business people to examine more closely the new joint investment and marketing opportunities that are currently materialising.

The international tourism market has over the past decade sought new destinations that combine cultural and historical attractions with good weather, beach facilities and action-oriented outdoor activities, and Jordan, he said, could develop into a destination that meets these criteria. "The past three years have clearly indicated that this is happening," he said.

He pointed to the Dead Sea, and the Zerqa Ma'in resort as well as the Red Sea port of Aqaba as sectoral and geographic areas which the Jordanian tourism authorities are trying to promote for investment purposes.

"There is considerable scope for innovative new facilities and marketing efforts, particularly geared to Europeans and Scandinavians," he said.

Atalla noted however that thousands of tourists who would like to visit Jordan do not get a chance to do so, in some cases because of the lack of space at Petra. The ancient Nabatean city, along the Aqaba seacoast, he said, were fully booked for the coming three months at least.

Scandinvian President Khaled Nabghali also addressed the group and stressed the importance of cooperation between the private and public sectors in promoting tourism into Jordan. Public relations and promotion as well as attracting foreign investments were crucial for the growth of the Jordanian tourism industry, he said.

Management course begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A two week training seminar on the management of information and education programmes dealing with population communication in the Arab World opened at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) in Amman Saturday.

A total of 24 participants responsible for the information and education programmes related to population communication in the

Arab World are taking part in the seminar which was organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation with the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU).

The main address at the opening session was delivered by Muir Al Durra, director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, who under-

lined the importance of training personnel in information fields to promote the process of socio-economic development of the Arab World.

Durra who deputised at the meeting for Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh said that the information and communication media have significant role in introducing changes in the society

Soloist Nancy Uscher offers encouragement

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Cultural Centre saw, Thursday, a joint performance by the orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the renowned violinist Nancy Uscher beld under the aegis of the National Conservatory, Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The programme included Florentine March by Julius Fucik, W.A. Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (1st Mvt), Georg Telemann's Concert in G major for viola and string orchestra, where Nancy Uscher performed a spirited solo. Next came Franz Lehar's soft "Gold and Silver" that gave the orchestra the required crescendo that they so love to end with. F.A. Boieldieu's "The Caliph of Baghdad" went faster and had the same boisterous ending.

In agreeing to play with the

orchestra of the Armed Forces, Nancy Uscher, a violinist of international stature who has received critical acclaim for her solo and recital appearances throughout the United States, Europe and the Middle East, offered them an opportunity to practice and perform with her major and accompaniment roles in front of an audience: quite an opportunity considering her rich background. She holds a doctorate in performance from New York University at Stony Brook, and an undergraduate degree from the Eastman School of Music. She studied at the Julliard School and was awarded a performance certificate from the Royal College of Music in London.

Miss Uscher is a musicologist and has contributed articles to various publications, and written several books such as The Schirmer Guide to Schools of Music and Conservatories throughout

the world, which catalogues 750 institutions. She is now preparing a new book entitled Careers in Music. The orchestra, staff and public conveyed their appreciation for her efforts.

Other professionals have offered the orchestra an opportunity for a joint concert and the list keeps widening.

It is now essential for each member of the orchestra to put in all his time and effort, all his power and knowhow to present performances where discipline prevails and the harmony in the sound of the different instruments brings applause to the composer as well as the performers. Only in giving such results would they express their gratitude to the many individuals and institutions whose time and toil is offered in good faith. And the public has vowed to encourage and applaud them all the way to success.



Crown Prince opens OICC exhibition

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, tours an exhibition by five participating cities of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and

Cities conference currently being held in Amman — story on page one (Petra photo)

Hindawi opens north development seminar

RAMTHA (Petra) — A seminar on development issues in the northern region of Jordan opened Saturday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, who deputised for the Prince, opened the sessions with a speech in which he said that the meeting was intended to help planners, decision-makers and researchers as well as representatives of the government and the local councils to review the development process and its achievements with a view to benefiting from past experience in planning for further schemes.

The northern districts, Hindawi noted, account for 31 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom and contain 28 per cent of the

total number of its population. The area is marked by certain geographical and environmental features serving as advantages in the process of production, the minister said.

Hindawi said that the private and the public sectors are expected to cooperate closely to offer more contributions to the development of the region. For its part the public sector has been providing the essential infrastructure for all projects and services required by the development process, the minister pointed out.

He said that the gathering of all concerned parties and policy-makers in this meeting demonstrated the concern of both parties to forge ahead with greater determination towards the development of the northern regions of Jordan.

It is hoped that the present meeting will increase and expand

the participation of the private and public sectors in development processes and in implementing productive schemes, the minister added.

The participants will discuss development matters in the fields of agriculture, tourism, transport, industry, social services, the environment and local councils' activities.

Several working papers have been prepared focusing on the development process in the region and providing new proposals.

According to local officials, the northern district groups 235 local councils and more than 100 population settlements and inhabitants of the badia region. One of the major areas under development at present is the Hammad basin where several government departments are involved in carrying out projects.

Jordan to sign international treaty on the environment

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud left for Switzerland Saturday to take part in an international conference on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste which will open in the city of Basel Monday.

During the three-day meeting, the delegates will sign an international agreement on transporting and dumping such waste in other countries.

The agreement will be known as the international agreement on

the trans-boundary movement of perilous waste, according to the Swiss embassy in Amman which said that invitations to the conference were sent out to ministers in charge of the environment in their countries.

The U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) board of directors last June set up a committee of experts and technicians to work out an international agreement, and four meetings were held later during which the final version of the agreement was

concluded. The UNEP was established by the United Nations in 1972 to provide machinery for international cooperation in matters relating to the environment.

In cooperation with other international organisations, UNEP aims to maintain a constant watch on the changing state of the environment, to assess problems using a wide range of data and techniques and to promote projects leading to environmentally sound development.

Trade seminar opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry will Sunday open a seminar designed to discuss means of promoting Jordanian exports to Arab and foreign markets.

According to a chamber official the seminar aims to identify the facts, problems and constraints that impede the development of exports and possible solutions.

The official noted, in a statement issued on the eve of the seminar, that the Kingdom now has 9,630 industrial companies and institutions which contributed by JD 285 million to the gross national product in 1985 and JD 289 million in 1987, thus acquiring some 22 per cent of the total national product.

The Jordanian industrial sector, the official added, employs 71,500 people who altogether have an income of JD 103.9 million annually, and that the workers in industry account for 20 per cent of the total number of people covered by the social security law.

According to the official, Jordan's industrial exports in 1987 were worth JD 248.8 million and there is a good chance for these exports to increase in value and volume in the coming years. According to the Chamber's President Khaldoun Abu Hassan, Jordan exports products to 66 countries which among others include the United States, the United

Kingdom, the Scandinavian countries and Canada as well as the countries of the European Community and the Socialist bloc.

Recently the prime minister ordered the formation of a special committee which will be entrusted with the task of promoting the sale of Jordanian national products and opening new markets. Abu Hassan noted. He said that the committee comprises of representatives of the Chamber of Industry, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Royal

Scientific Society (RSS).

According to the chamber's official, the director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Wasef Azar, will submit a working paper outlining production and marketing of Jordanian phosphate. One of the other papers will deal with the question of financing and guaranteeing Jordanian exports while, a third will deal with the beneficial effects on exports resulting from the government's monetary, financial and economic measures.

Swissair, Delta Air plan close cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swissair and Delta Air Lines plan to establish a close framework of cooperation following the signing in Zurich of a memorandum of understanding by Delta Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Ron Allen and Swissair President Otto Loepef, Swissair announced.

The objective of the cooperation is to coordinate schedules so that passengers and cargo customers of both airlines can take advantage of the swiftest connections from and to the North American continent.

Swissair President Otto Loepef said: "The purpose of our cooperation is to provide an even

higher standard of customer service and to secure our global market position. Delta Air Lines has an outstanding reputation and represents an excellent partner for us in the USA, which is one of our principal sales areas."

Delta Air Lines is the third largest carrier in the US, employing 56,000 people. Its main hub and administrative headquarters are at Atlanta, Georgia, which is regularly served by Swissair.

Swissair currently operates to 105 points in 67 countries. Its fleet of 53 aircraft has an average age of 6.5 years.

SOVIET TEAM: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan (third from right) Saturday receives a Soviet delegation representing air transport and trade unions. The discussions focused on the talks the delegation held with the Jordanian side representing air transport union (Petra photo)



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U.S. policy shifting

IT appears that all the waiting that was done for Washington to clarify its intentions regarding the Middle East has not been in vain. To begin with, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker not only told Israeli leaders that they might have to negotiate with the PLO, but also stood by that position in spite of the very strong negative reaction. Second, the American-PLO talks appear to have picked up again after hanging in limbo for many weeks. The impending resumption of these talks on Wednesday has been formally announced by the two sides. Third, some influential members of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee have told Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens during his recent visit to Washington that while support for Israel in the U.S. Congress remained strong, there were growing signs that support for Israel among the American people was beginning to erode.

Thus, America is finally flexing its political muscle towards the Arab-Israeli conflict amid strong signs that Washington, and the White House in particular, is coming to grips with the issues of war and peace in the Middle East. Such developments augur well for the process of peace in the Middle East especially if the momentum generated by them can be maintained for a long period of time. It is obvious that for all the positive developments in the Middle Eastern arena to bear fruit, more time needs to be invested during which no major setback must be allowed to fester. The clearer the U.S. position is, the easier it would become for the forces of peace within Israel to consolidate their ranks against the intransigent positions taken by their incumbent prime minister and his Likud Party.

The first evidence of this is the Israeli Labour Party ministers' decision to demand a Labour-Likud ministerial discussion of foreign policy towards the Palestinian question before Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir makes his forthcoming trip to the U.S. next month. If seems that opposition to the stone-faced policies of Shamir towards the West Bank and Gaza Strip is beginning to get reenergised in the wake of Washington's recent elucidation of its policies vis-a-vis the Middle East region. This is not to mention the voices of Israeli leaders like cabinet member Ezer Weizman, former General Matti Peled, former military intelligence chief Yehoshafat Harkabi, former General Mordechai Gur and scores of others who are counselling common sense and reasonableness on the Israeli side.

Likewise, the forces of peace and moderation on the Arab side would also get a boost and an encouragement as long as the American policy continues to move in the direction of just and legitimate resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Accordingly, the cause of peace in the Middle East calls for durable American stand in favour of just and permanent settlement of the conflict on the basis of established and legitimate international grounds.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

IN its editorial Saturday Al Ra'i daily newspaper expressed satisfaction with Washington's advice to Israel to halt its settlements in the occupied Arab territories and its warning that the United States could refrain from vetoing U.N. Security Council resolutions that condemn Israel's actions. But the paper said that this constructive step should be followed by a practical move on the part of Washington by working towards convening an international Middle East peace conference which will have full terms of reference in the question of peace and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland. The paper said that unless Washington took this practical step, its efforts would be totally aborted and no peace could be achieved. If no peace is achieved soon, the paper added, the Palestinian people's sufferings will continue and Israel will pursue its atrocities and its inhuman practices which have been condemned by all nations. The paper said that the coming stage should witness practical steps by Washington represented in moves towards convening the projected conference.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that Israel did not agree to leave Tabu without exacting a high price from Egypt for its withdrawal. Abdul Rahim Omar says that Israel is getting millions of dollars for the hotel it built in Tabu and obtained crude oil free of charge from oil wells it had drilled in Sinai as a price for its withdrawal from occupied Egyptian territory in 1982. The writer notes that Israel forces on the Arabs a very high price for every inch it is forced to leave or at least leaves United Nations forces in the evacuated territory in order to prevent the Arab forces from returning to that territory and pose danger to its forces. The writer wonders what Israel would be demanding in exchange for any withdrawal that could take place from the occupied West Bank.

Al Dustour daily newspaper said that Israel has been dealt in severe blow by American Secretary of State James Baker's statements which called on Israel to halt its settlements and open a dialogue with the PLO. The paper said that the severity of the blow caused the Israeli leaders to behave strangely and defiantly. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reacted by saying that Israel will not withdraw from the occupied territories neither will it stop building settlements in the occupied lands. Shamir, who is to visit Washington soon, has thus voiced the Israeli government's official position prior to this visit, the paper noted. It also quoted Shamir as saying that any withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands would not contribute towards peace in the region. Thus the paper added, we have to wait and see the outcome of Shamir's visit to the United States and Washington's official reaction to such extremist position.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

To combat unemployment, what growth rate is required?

By Dr. Fehed Fawek

THE purpose of this article is to explore the reasons that make unemployment an accelerating threat to Jordan, and to identify the factors that cause the country's manpower to grow at greater rate than the already very high growth rate in population. Although my approach is quite simple, to my knowledge my method was never attempted before.

Let us assume that the total population of Jordan stands now at three million and the total labour force at 600,000. The rate of economic participation is therefore 20 per cent, but this rate rises to 32 per cent among men and drops to 8 per cent among women, thus making the total labour force composed of 480,000 men and 120,000 women, and the percentage of women to the overall labour force is just 25 per cent.

As is already established, Jordan's annual growth of population ranges around 3.8 per cent, one of the highest in the world. Therefore, the new entrants to the labour market every year would be around 18,240 men or 3.8 per cent of the men already in the labour market.

However, the new trend of entering the labour market by the women, in contrast with the pattern that prevailed previously, would make us expect the women entrants to the labour market

at an equal number or something close, and not only 25 per cent of the men as suggested by the current composition of the labour force. We shall assume that the annual number of men who would seek jobs would be around 16,260 a year.

The total new entrants to the labour force, men and women would therefore, be in the order of 32,520 a year, or 5.8 per cent of the current labour force, and not just 3.8 per cent in accordance with the overall annual growth rate of the population and of men in the labour force. That may also explain the higher rate of unemployment among women.

In other words, the new additions to the Jordanian labour force may be 3.8 per cent as far as men are concerned, while it can be as high as 14 per cent in the women segment of the labour force.

This means that the growth of the population in Jordan at 3.8 per cent a year, and the new tendency for young women to work at almost the same rate as young men, will result in an overall growth rate of manpower higher than the growth of the population. This will create an added pressure on the labour market, a market already under stress, and suffers of high unemployment, especially among young people.

Since productivity is on the rise, the Jordanian economy should grow at over 6 per cent a year in real terms in order to create enough jobs for the new entrants to the labour market. When we bring into this picture a 80,000 already unemployed, and the possible expatriate returnees, we can imagine the minimum economic growth rate required during the next five years to cope with the situation. The current financial circumstances render such growth impossible to achieve.

Of course this rather bleak picture could be further perfected by bringing into this analysis the estimates of retirees, men and women, but this would not drastically alter the picture.

The above scenario demands a special and comprehensive management of the national economy, to tackle the present challenges from a wider horizon, and to take into account not only the developmental and financial problems and policies, but also population and social policies and problems as well. It is an extremely difficult dilemma with no ready-made solutions. Nevertheless it may be useful for policy and decision-makers to have the complexity of the problem in mind while formulating economic, social and political policies and decisions.



War: Israel's 'soft' option

By Mohamad Akuni

HISTORICALLY, from an Arab point of view, the political arm of Israel has trailed well behind its military arm. Having eliminated the weak Palestinian groups in 1948, Israeli forces quickly discovered their ability to take on Arab armies. Israeli politics soon interpreted this capability in a manner which helped to turn what was predominantly a Palestinian-Israeli conflict into a much wider Arab-Israeli conflict.

All serious efforts to conduct peace negotiations with weaker neighbours, let alone the Palestinians, were either halted or pursued in a leisurely fashion. The Israeli attack on Egypt in 1956 emphasised this strategic political switch. To the Palestinians, the Arabisation of the conflict was a heaven-sent political breakthrough. It was their only hope following the crushing political and military disaster of 1948.

The irresistible tendency of Israeli politics to opt for war-created soft options was repeated in 1967. Symbolically, the late Dayan waited in vain after June 1967 for the telephone to ring, thereby signalling a call from Cairo or Amman. Politically, it might have been very significant had Dayan decided to lift the receiver and dial first. It might have indicated the presence of a preset policy for attaining a stable peace other than the familiar one involving surrender by the adversary.

To Israeli politicians, the lessons of the 1973 war were interpreted as essentially military rather than political. On this basis, they proceeded to conclude a separate "peace" with Egypt, with the prime objective of neutralising the Egyptian army. The "peace" resulted in a demilitarised Sinai, but not Egypt. It left the Israeli public to assume that the now-modernised Egyptian army would be restrained by Camp David if Israel attacks Damascus or Amman.

This military approach to what is fundamentally a political problem is ambitious enough to expect Egypt to disassociate itself politically from the Arab-Israeli conflict being conducted on its doorstep. Today, supporters of this approach find it difficult to explain current Egyptian policies and the fact that Egypt is a major political supporter of the PLO.

Of course, it can be argued by some that Israel was forced to engage in all the above wars in self-defence. However, the relevant issue remains the same: the political use or misuse of options created in the immediate aftermath of wars and their utilisation or achieving a stable peace acceptable to all.

This excessive reliance of Israeli politics on the military is again manifested by its approach to the conflict with the Palestinians. Between 1948 and 1967, there was no independent Palestinian military force. Ironically, such a force came into being as a result of Israel's military victory

in 1967.

No military general worth his stars would regard this force as ever having posed a deadly military threat to Israeli forces. Nevertheless, Israeli politicians repeatedly sent the army to crush the Palestinians militarily, thereby hoping to eliminate them politically.

It was logical to Israeli politicians, therefore, to write off the PLO following its military departure from Beirut. It was equally natural for Israeli politicians to be infuriated by the politically motivated, PLO-led intifada. The logic being that the political fate of the PLO ought to follow its presumed military downfall.

Yet again the army, a finely tuned and efficient fighting force on the battlefield, was called upon, hopefully to save the day, this time facing stonethrowing youngsters and civilian strikes.

It is not difficult to understand the frustration of Israeli soldiers in this political battlefield where the trajectories of political stones and military plastic bullets do not fly along the same plane.

The use of military force for the defence of the state is one thing. Its persistent use for developing political options or imposing certain political lines on the adversary is a different thing altogether. Many Arabs believe that the Israeli political leadership has been deliberately and repeatedly confusing the two issues for many years.

To some Israelis, this attitude might seem logical and reasonable for a country that has lived through its history in a state of war. After all, it did pay dividends in the past. However, it can be argued that a political strategy which has, over four decades, neither concluded a stable peace with its adversaries nor extracted their political submission through military action can certainly benefit from thorough re-examination. Leaving the country in a state of perpetual war cannot possibly constitute a realistic and long-term political objective.

In essence, military power is but one element of the overall Arab-Israeli conflict. The neutralisation of this element need not take place via the military defeat of either party. We are already in the process of witnessing such a development. Two examples come to mind.

The first is the eventual advent of a balance of mutual destruction brought about by nuclear, biological, chemical and similar weaponry. This balance will impose either self-restraint or what amounts to the same: irresistible pressure from world opinion.

The other example is less extreme and entails the severe curtailment of the effectiveness of military power in its offensive (but not defensive) form. This situation arises when the Arabs, as in the case of Israel today, acquire sufficient military defences to render any offence by Israel prohibitively expensive.

Both examples are neither theoretical nor too distant. Both may proceed under current conditions of the status quo. It would be foolhardy of the leadership on any side of the conflict not to take them into consideration. With the neutralisation of the military factor and in the absence of a stable and acceptable peace, other parameters of the conflict assume immeasurable significance. These include political, economic and demographic aspects. It is very doubtful that these would be in Israel's favour.

Military chiefs of staff might be able to plan with absolute certainty, but rarely beyond what the current generation of weapons systems would allow. Surely a motivated political leadership is capable of planning a viable and stable peace for much further into the future.

The writer is a chemical engineer working for a West Bank industrial concern. His article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

Sorting out the mysteries of democracy

By Susan Chira

SEOUL — This nation is still technically at war with its northern half, but even more at odds with itself.

In South Korea, when people took to the streets to demand democracy, they also chanted "Order!" in the midst of the demonstrations.

Subordinates edge out of the room backwards in the presence of their superiors, while waiters are familiar with their customers. People pore over the latest technological journals but consult fortune-tellers about their next business venture. Parents refuse a child's choice of a mate because the choice comes from a rival region.

It is these conflicts — between freedom and control, rigid hierarchy and informality, national pride and regional hatred — that define and limit the democracy that South Korea has fashioned since protests forced the government to agree to changes nearly two years ago.

South Korea's evolving democracy reflects the nation — contradictory, fragile, but potentially resilient.

This is a nation of growing freedom, but not one of laws. It has visions of democracy, but few institutions to guarantee it.

"Many people in Korea think we've achieved democracy because now we can talk freely on the street and in coffeehouses and we can hear more on TV and radio, but there are no substantive changes in the legal system, the bureaucracy, the government, the attitude of police and prosecutors."

It has been 21 months since Roh Tae Woo yielded to demonstrators and proposed free elections. It has been a year since he took office, winning a nearly 37 per cent plurality running against a split opposition.

Since the moves toward democracy were prompted, the changes have been dizzying. It is sometimes difficult to connect the South Korea of today with the one that existed before June 1987.

In February 1986, the government deployed tens of thousands of police officers and placed hundreds of elected opposition legislators under temporary house arrest to prevent them from meeting to discuss a petition drive calling for free elections.

Two years later, the government held those elections. The governing party won, and many of the same people who had

remain weak, organised more around strong leaders than any particular set of beliefs. Authoritarian habits persist, from politics to labour relations.

"We should change the laws to make democracy a permanent institution," said Hyun Hong Choon, the minister of legislation. "Because we didn't have a genuine representative government, disrespect for law became rooted."

At the same time, news organisations eager to demonstrate their new freedoms do not always respect the principle of accuracy.

Economic tensions fester, in the workplace and in a growing concern about the fate of those left behind in South Korea's drive to prosperity.

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warned that South Korea was not ready for a full democracy took office pledging to install one.

Before June 1987, Hyun was one of the government's staunchest public defenders. He said that the government had to crack down on the petition drive because it tended "to incite social disorder and endanger national security."

He offered a spirited defence of former President Chun Doo Hwan's decision to seize control, saying, "This government was forced to go into politics and run the government because at that time no one was capable of maintaining order in that chaotic situation."

Now Hyun is one of Roh's closest advisers and speaks often of the need to make democratic changes. He condemns past abuses of the Chun government.

In 1985, intelligence agents beat editors from the Dong-A Ilbo newspaper for daring to print an article the government considered diplomatically sensitive.

Then, Korean newspapers had nearly the same articles, in the same places on every page, their contents virtually dictated by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Now newspapers compete with each other for details of investigations into corruption and abuse of power in the previous government.

Before June 1987, intelligence agents and police officers routinely detained, interrogated and tortured people like Kim Keun Tae, an intellectual active in the underground labour movement.

Now Kim and hundreds like him are out of jail, freed by a series of presidential amnesties.

Human rights monitors have not reported any recent torture cases of dissidents, although they say that there are still 280 political prisoners.

For years, tough anti-union policies kept Korean workers docile, wages relatively low, and Korea's economy booming.

Now, thousands of strikes have rocked South Korea's biggest companies as workers win the right to form unions. Wages have soared, and business leaders worry that labour unrest could slow South Korea's still vibrant economy — The New York Times.

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The rape of the Amazon

In the first of a two part article Walter Schwarz reports on the state of rain forests of Brazil where whole populations are battling for survival.

MANY Brazilians care about the rainforest — not only the tribal Indians and rubber tappers who actually live in it. These two groups have become famous as they fight for their own survival against cattle ranchers, gold diggers and absentee landlords.

During a visit to the old-established colonisation areas of Rondonia, and the latest region to be invaded as the highway pushes westwards — the state of Acre — I found many other people angry over the creeping destruction. They include officials, politicians, in all parties, forest protection officers, settlers in the region, and even ranchers and businessmen who have grown rich in exploiting the forest.

Dedicated destroyers are harder to meet. One place to see them is at the Greater Carajas Project for extracting gold, copper and other minerals from nearly a million square kilometres of rainforest. To fuel a pig-iron plant attached to this project, lumberjacks have begun felling 15,000 square kilometres of forest to produce charcoal. This vandalism is financed by the World Bank, the EEC, and Brazilian and foreign banks and companies.

The planners in Electronorte, the regional electricity authority, deserve to be counted among dedicated destroyers too — with their gigantic schemes for even more hydroelectric dams. These flood, and pollute huge areas to provide cheap, subsidised power to industries like the Greater Carajas Project.

But few people in the Amazon towns and settlements admit to supporting the haphazard burning that takes place in the dry season every year, lately responsible for the annual destruction of an area the size of the U.K. Even the crude nationalists, mostly soldiers, who think Brazil must "occupy" the Amazon before anybody else does, say they want "rational occupation."

Nationalists like these see a subversive "infiltration" in every ecologist. They suffer nightmares about international conspiracies to separate Brazil from its Amazon. But even they admit that mistakes have been made. Almost everyone involved in the Amazonian drama tells of frustration at the haphazard colonisation, the horrifying burning, and the pollution of rivers and lakes.

"My dream is that we shall have areas set aside for forest people, tappers and peasants — the people who live off the forest and are motivated to look after it," said Jefferson do Rego, a young agronomist who was organising a rubber tappers' meeting

at the frontier town of Guajara Mirim in Western Rondonia. "Each reserve should have a nucleus village — with co-operatives, church, health centre, school, creche, community vegetable gardens and winter shelters."

Do Rego's dream contrasts sharply with his waking life. He had just organised fuel supplies to be sent to the impoverished tappers so that they could power their boats along hundreds of miles of river to attend the meeting, the first ever held in Rondonia. Many were too scared to come, after the murder of their leaders by ranchers' hirelings.

The tappers (*seringueiros*) are lean, weather-beaten men with shy voices. Francisco Joachim Filho was wearing a free-issue election T-shirt. He said he felt "completely abandoned" in his remote settlement. He and his family got up at 3 a.m., all joining in the work of tapping an average of 170 trees a day. "When my scales show a hundred kilograms, the middleman's scales always show 80 or 90."

The *seringueiros*, led by Chico Mendes from the neighbouring state of Acre until his murder last December, are rising up for the first time against exploitation by landowners. The owners live in town, never venturing into the forest. They send their agents and middlemen up river to collect the latex, cheaply, in return for the costly goods they bring. In addition, many tappers have to pay a ten per cent "rent," although the landlords rarely have any legal title to the forest.

Chico's way

Do Rego, trying to end this exploitation, was a student leader until he met Chico Mendes. "When Chico died, I decided to stay on here to continue the fight," he said that the idea of "extractive reserves" for tappers and peasants had been official policy for years — "but nothing was done; no money ever arrived. And tappers are afraid to agitate: they go the way of Chico."

Another young idealist is Paulo Barbosa Filho, who works for the forest protection agency in Porto Velho, the Rondonia State capital. "If it were properly managed it would be a paradise. As it is, forest loss is already changing the weather; there isn't a proper wet or dry season any more and it's getting warmer. At this rate, in 20 years the Amazon will be a desert."

Paulo's boss, Luis Catanhede, is less apocalyptic and more resigned. He says he was supposed to stop timber companies from

invading parks and biological reserves, but he has no money to hire guards. The Brazilian Amazon, half as big as Europe, employs a total of 500 forest guards to keep of marauding gold diggers, encroaching loggers and illegal settlers.

"Even when I do catch people," says Catanhede, "the fines are derisory: nobody bothered to keep them in line with inflation. So the loggers do what they want, and farmers keep on invading reserves in search of better soil. The farmer sees the forest as an enemy; the government never explains that you can live with it."

Higher still up the scale of authority, Catanhede's own bosses back in Brasilia, say that they, too, are concerned, but feel equally powerless. Brazil's top environmental official, Fernando Mesquita, a minister with direct access to the president, agrees that "zoning" is the answer — well marked, separate regions for development, for extraction, and for biological preservation.

"We are working on a zoning plan with the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation," he says. "But it costs millions." Mesquita, who has no environmental expertise but appears energetic and enthusiastic in his new job, likes to stress the limits to action.

"We need to get rid of the gold diggers who have illegally invaded Indian reserves in Roraima State. But how do we get them out and how do we ensure they don't come back? These *garimpeiros* number 40,000 so if we include their families we're talking of 200,000 people. That's a lot of economic and political pressure on the state government."

Mesquita's helpless note is typical of Brazilian thinking on the Amazon. People like to talk of the forest, half ironically, as the "lung of the world" because of its role in absorbing excess carbon dioxide and regulating climate. The solution is seen as "rational occupation." But always there is despair over the politics involved, the lack of money, the difficulty in enforcing the law in the uncharted forest.

AMAZON: OCCUPY WITH-OUT DESTROYING — A QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND INTELLIGENCE, says a wall poster at the Association of Amazon Businessmen in Sao Paulo, Roberto Paranhos de Rio Branco, the president of this association, agrees sadly that wasteful mistakes had been made. "We didn't choose the best lands or the best areas: we just followed roads that were open. We have always said there should be zoning, but the government never listened. The ideal solution would be to exploit a third of the rainforest and leave two thirds alone. Rational zoning would involve getting people to swap lands in wrong places for other lands in the right places."

In common with many other Brazilians involved in the Amazon, he rejects the notion put out

by ecologists that rainforest is necessarily unsuitable for agriculture or ranching. "Many of the areas settled were unsuitable: but there are places that sustain cattle year after year without trouble."

Paranhos de Rio Branco has no doubt that the region needs to be "occupied." He says he had come to believe, back in the Fifties, that foreigners who worry over the Amazon were really interested in protecting world grain and mineral markets from competition. He still thinks that that is the covert purpose behind some protests.

Paranhos like that is rarely voiced to foreigners, but it informs many government statements, such as President Sarney's declarations that "not one square metre of the Amazon will be surrendered to international control."

And yet a broad consensus is now emerging on what ought to be done in the Amazon. A ten-point plan by conservationists, rubber tappers and politicians, demanding an "ecological truce," uses much the same language as that of Mesquita, language echoed by officials.

The first demand is an end to the fiscal incentives by which people are paid by the government to clear forest land. The incentives have already been suspended, first for three months and now indefinitely.

The next demand is for "a new model of development," favouring reserves to be set aside for the sustainable exploitation of forest products. That, too, is on the official agenda. Nobody now defends the headlong colonisation schemes of the 1960s and 1970s which dumped landless peasants in the Amazon — even though the soil was poor.

Officials and ministers now agree that there must be "rational" mineral policies and "sustainable" timber working, including replanting.

The sticking point is energy. The ecologists' 10-point plan calls for a "review" of hydro-electric projects, better consultation with local people, and smaller, decentralised projects, using bio-gas and solar energy where appropriate.

Almost everyone in the Amazon feels a victim. The Indians are victims of invasions by gold diggers and ranchers. The gold diggers (*garimpeiros*) are often victims of middlemen and are sometimes shot at by Indians (and shoot back in full measure). And now the government has plans to ban the use of mercury for separating gold from soil and, if possible, to expel the *garimpeiros* from sensitive areas of Roraima State.

"I'm getting too old to be a *garimpeiro*," says Jose Edwal da Costa, who looks about 35, hunched down to his shorts, sweating and sun-baked, on the road outside Porto Velho. "They say we should stop using mercury because it poisons rivers. But we

have nothing else for the job. Actually the stuff sinks down into the river bed and does no harm at all. We're the people to worry, because we have to burn the mercury off the gold dust, and the fumes from that really are deadly."

He says he could mine 700 grammes in a good month, worth \$4,700 locally and more in the cities. But he has managed only 400 grammes in December and none at all in January. He says that diggers often die in fights or when diving, when logs and debris get tangled with your pipeline. "One more year, then I'll go back to driving to a taxi."

Settlers are victims too, in this poor man's Wild West. Many have failed on the land and sold out to cattle ranchers (some of whom are bogus, buying the land only for speculation, burning more forest each year). Those who sold out now live in shacks along muddy, pot-holed lanes in Porto Velho or Guajara Mirim.

"Looking back, I'd have been better off staying in the Sierrá," says Sebastian Souza after 34 years in Rondonia. Having sold his Amazonian plot, he was staying on a friend's impoverished holding, amid scrawny chickens and many dogs. He remembers arriving by ship at Porto Velho, fares paid by the government, and being given a plot of land 250 metres by 1,000. "I marked out my plot, then got another. Each year I cleared a bit more. We had to burn because we didn't have chainsaws."

He grew maize, beans, cassava and rice, but the rainforest soil was unsuitable. "One day," he says, "it will all have gone to the ranchers, and people will move into towns" — *The Guardian*.



The gold diggers... thousands struggle daily to carry soil from an open mine in Para

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The Aswan Dam and places in the heart

By Jeffrey Bartholet
Reuters

ASWAN, Egypt — U.S. engineers are overhauling the Aswan High Dam, 33 years after Washington refused to finance it and left Moscow to build what became a symbol of Egyptian-Soviet defiance of the West.

The Americans are replacing some of the machinery in the dam with modern parts made in the United States.

U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner said on a recent visit to this Nile-side town 1,200 kilometres south of Cairo: "This dam is an historic accomplishment of Egypt in her partnership with the Soviet Union — nothing should begin to take away from that."

But he said that the U.S. renovations should be seen in the spirit of detente.

High Dam Manager Hamdi Shafai remembers his anger in 1956, when Washington backed out of the Aswan Project hoping to pressure Egypt's leader Gamal Abdul Nasser into more pro-Western policies.

"There was a very bad feeling," he said.

Nasser nationalised the British-controlled Suez Canal, in part to use its profits for the dam project.

The step was a turning point in the superpower struggle for dominance in the Middle East. The Soviet Union took over the Aswan Project and became Egypt's backer for more than a decade.

The tide turned again until 1972, when late President Anwar Sadat expelled Soviet advisers and began courting the West.

The United States is now pumping \$140 million into projects to upgrade the dam, a massive concrete and earthen structure built by 35,000 engineers and workers over a decade.

Renovations include replacement of the 12 hydroturbine runners, which spin out 15 per cent of Egypt's electricity.

Half the new 140-tonne runners, three to four per cent more efficient than the old ones, have been installed and the others should be in place by 1992. They are designed to extend life of the power station by 40 years.

The dam is believed to have spared Egypt the effects of both drought and flood that have ravaged other countries along the Nile basin.

The current modernisation is funded from \$2.3 billion in annual U.S. aid to Egypt, the second largest recipient of American assistance after Israel.

Moscow, meanwhile, is cautiously moving back on the scene. In 1987, the Soviet Union rescheduled Egypt's \$3 billion in military debt on easy terms and they are now starting to discuss soft loans for new civilian projects.

But cooperation — not competition — is the theme of superpower foreign policy today.

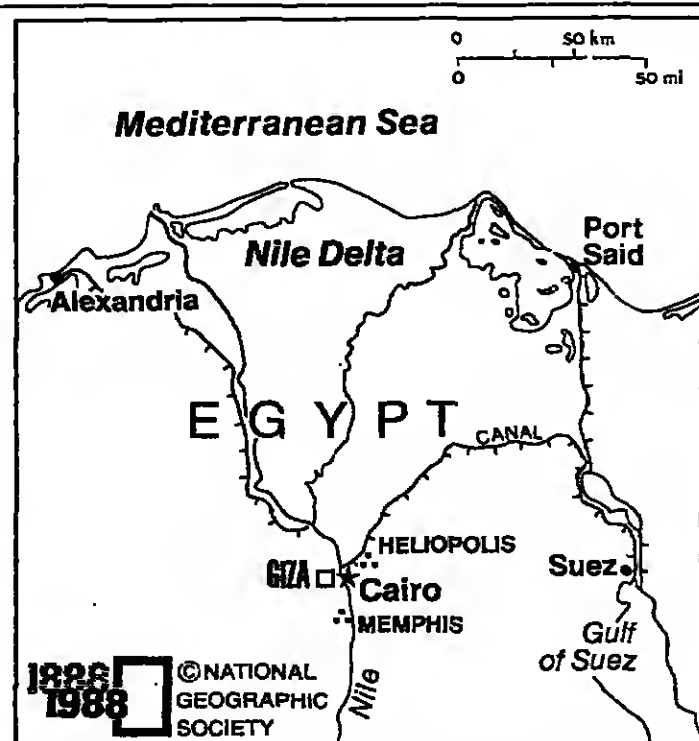
"In the 1960s and 1970s, each side had a gun at its back," Egyptian Electricity Minister Maher Ahaza told reporters.

"The Americans said 'you are my friend or you are my enemy' — this was their policy then and it was the same with the Russians."

"But nowadays they say 'you are my friend and you can also be a friend to others.'"

Wisner's visit to the dam, including a minute to admire a large bust of Nasser, came two months after Ahaza took a Soviet government delegation there and praised cooperation with Moscow.

Egypt has found that it does not jeopardise its relations with the West by slowly improving ties



with the Soviet Union. The balance — though still strongly tilted toward Washington — helps President Hosni Mubarak resist local and foreign critics who call him a U.S. puppet.

"All nations need to extend a hand," said Wisner at the high dam. "It would be wrong to think our visit or anybody's visit is competition."

Egypt, \$43 billion in debt and

anxious for help from any source, is careful not to offend either side.

"Of course we are Arabs and Arabs trace everything to their origins," said Shafai, the dam manager. "If the Russians helped us construct this dam, then we keep the Russians in our hearts."

He added: "When the Americans help us to modernise, we also take this to heart."

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U.S. producer price rise spurs fears of hikes in interest rates

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Concern that the Federal Reserve (Fed) Board will raise interest rates abounded in financial markets after the U.S. government reported that producer prices surged in February for the second straight month.

The producer price index, a gauge of inflation at the wholesale level, rose one per cent last month after an identical advance in January, for a 12.6 per cent annual rate of increase so far this year, the Labour Department said Friday.

Topping investor concerns was the latest evidence of an inflationary surge which could prompt the Fed to respond with another round of interest rate increases.

After the government reported sharp jumps in January consumer and producer prices last month, the Fed pushed up short-term interest rates and raised its discount rate, citing the need to fight growing inflationary pressure.

Economists said some further credit-tightening is likely, if only to demonstrate the Fed's commitment to fighting inflation, especially if February consumer prices show a big gain in the Labour Department's March 21 report.

The producer price rise superceded other recent indications — including declines in imports, retail sales, housing starts and a leveling off of industrial output — that the Fed's interest rate increases may be slowing the economy.

But after the producer price increase was issued, a Fed official said the trend of rising inflation remains intact.

"You can have a slowing of growth in the economy but not enough to take the edge off inflationary pressures," the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

Last month's rise in the producer price index, which can be a harbinger of retail price rises, was led by surging food and energy costs, including a staggering 158 per cent rise in tomato prices, the

department said. While higher interest rates can ease some price pressures, economists said there is nothing the Fed can do to avert price increases in food, oil and other natural resources.

"What in the world can they do about a 158 per cent increase in tomatoes?" said Donald Ratajczak, economic forecasting director at Georgia State University.

Finished consumer food prices rose 1.2 per cent last month, with tomatoes accounting for half of the increase, while energy prices soared 2.4 per cent, the department said.

Stocks, bonds plunge but dollar, gold soar

The news sent the stock and bond markets tumbling Friday, with the Dow Jones industrial average plunging nearly 50 points.

The U.S. dollar climbed sharply higher, despite central bank intervention to hold it down, as dealers anticipated interest rate hikes that would make the U.S. currency more attractive.

Gold prices also advanced. Republic National Bank of New York said gold was bid at \$392.50 a troy ounce as of 4 p.m. (2100 GMT), up from Thursday's late bid of \$388.75 an ounce.

The Dow Jones average of 30 stocks was down 48.57 points at 2,292.14 by the close on Wall Street.

The inflation-sensitive bond market fell even more steeply.

The treasury's benchmark 30-year bond was down nearly \$20 for every \$1,000 in face value in late trading, pushing the yield to 9.3 per cent from 9.1 per cent late Thursday.

Inflation erodes the value of

bonds and produces high interest rates that sap money from the stock market. Wholesale price inflation so far this year is more than triple the 4.0 per cent rate of 1988.

Economists said if the Fed boosts interest rates too high in its effort to cool off the economy and dampen inflation, it could accidentally cut short the record 6½-year-old economic expansion.

"This does not increase considerably the chances for a recession," said Lawrence Meyer, the president of a St. Louis-based economic consulting firm.

"It's kind of the worst nightmare for the Fed: Inflation is picking up just as the economy is beginning to slow down," Meyer said.

The financial market turmoil would have been worse if investors concluded that wholesale inflation was going to hit double digits this year. But most economists agreed the two-month trend is at least partly a fluke.

"It certainly is a very, very discouraging report but it's going to take more (information) to determine where inflation is going," said Thomas Holloway, a senior economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association of America in Washington.

Bond prices tumbled immediately after the release of the report. Stock prices followed suit an hour later when the New York Stock Exchange opened. Bargain hunters came in at the lower levels and stabilised the market somewhat in later trading.

The inflation report also knocked stocks lower abroad. In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index suffered its worst loss of the year, falling 1.9 per cent.

"The first and by far the greatest fear is that international interest rates have yet to go higher," said Paul Walton, an equities analyst at Warburg Securities in London.

U.S. analysts agreed. "If the

next move is up in interest rates, this market is going to sail south," said William Howard, manager of over-the-counter trading at Sutro and Co. Inc. in San Francisco.

Most worrisome to economists was that inflation seemed to be rising at a time the economy was slowing, as reflected in reports this week on declines in factory use and housing starts and flat industrial production.

The recent rise in crude oil prices to \$20 a barrel, if it sticks, will keep pressuring inflation higher in coming months, said Richard Stuckey, economist at Du Pont Co. in Wilmington, Delaware.

The nature of inflation also seems to be shifting, from the kind that comes from vigorous economic growth to the kind stemming from longer-term pressures on labour and material costs, said Bethel Minter, economist at Suntrust Banks Inc. in Atlanta.

This new inflation does not result directly from the economy's strength and is thus a barrier for the Fed to stop by raising interest rates, Minter said.

FAO blasts policies of world creditors

ROME (R) — The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Friday strongly attacked economic policies imposed on Third World countries by international creditors, saying they exacerbated world hunger.

In an unusually harsh speech, Director-General Edouard Saouma also said the agricultural policies of industrialised countries were sinking the Third World further into debt and widening the imbalance between rich and poor.

Iraq to send oil experts to S. Yemen

ADEN (R) — Iraq will send oil experts to South Yemen to assist operations to refine Iraqi crude oil at the Aden refinery, official sources have said. The decision was made at talks between Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi and South Yemeni Minerals and Energy Minister Saleh Abu Baker Ibn Hussainoun, they said. Chalabi arrived in South Yemen from North Yemen Wednesday to discuss cooperation in the oil industry. The Aden plant refines 15,000 barrels per day of Iraqi crude.

Nicaragua devalues cordoba again

MANAGUA (AP) — The government has devalued the cordoba currency for the eighth time this year, reducing its value 9.8 per cent to 5,100 to the dollar, and raised gasoline prices. The official exchange rate had been 4,600 to the dollar since the last devaluation a week ago. It started the year at 920 to the dollar. On the black market, the dollar quickly rose from 5,000 cordobas to 5,400. The official exchange rate is used for exports. There was no immediate announcement of the rate on the parallel market, used for authorised sales of dollars. Gasoline rose from 8,700 to 9,400 cordobas a gallon, or \$1.61 to \$1.74 at the black market dollar rate. Prices for diesel, kerosene, liquid propane and other fuels also were raised.

Malaysian minister visits Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Malaysia's Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, arrived in Iran Saturday for a three-day visit focussing on economic issues, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. Iranian Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani said during a visit to Kuala Lumpur in February that trade between the two countries was expected to rise to \$150 to \$200 million this year from \$8 million last year. Iran buys palm oil from Malaysia and Irvani said Malaysia would increase imports of crude petroleum from Iran to balance the trade.

Leo Pharmaceuticals meets in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leo Pharmaceuticals, an international pharmaceutical company based in Denmark held its twelfth annual sales conference meeting in Amman Plaza Hotel from March 11 to 17, 1989. Over 60 company representatives came from: Denmark, France, Greece, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Malta, Oman, United Arab Emirates and North Yemen.

Philippine senate approves IMF deal

MANILA (AP) — The Philippine senate has endorsed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under which the government commits itself to economic reform in return for about \$1.3 billion in new loans. Thirteen of the 23 senators voted for the "letter of intent" with the IMF, seven disapproved and the rest were absent. Critics said the economic growth targets set by the government in the letter were unrealistic unless new taxes were imposed. Among the measures the government pledged to undertake in the letter are a reduction in its budget deficit by improved tax collection, further liberalisation of imports and privatisation of state-owned businesses.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 18, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	407.9	412.2
Pound Sterling	919.7	929.3	Dutch guilder	254.1	256.1
Deutschemark	286.2	289.1	Swedish crown	84.0	84.7
Swiss franc	332.6	335.2	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.4
French franc	84.6	85.3	Belgian franc (for 10)	136.9	138.0

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 11, '89 and ending Wednesday March 15, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	2000	3200	1.640	1.600	1.000
Petra Bank	860	2225	2.620	2.600	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1035	2129	2.060	2.050	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	9850	14906	1.360	1.440	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	61820	79080	1.220	1.340	1.000
Housing Bank	876	1620	1.810	1.850	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	811	12380	15.250	15.200	5.000
Arab Bank	1922	280709	147.500	144.750	10.000
Jordan National Bank	22750	58087	2.560	2.550	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	25450	55182	2.470	2.450	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	70300	133684	1.970	1.980	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	12609	11833	0.950	0.930	1.000
Arab Financial Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashreq Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Exchange	—	—	—	—	1.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	1500	1470	0.950	0.900	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	22465	44714	2.000	1.980	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	16632	59770	3.640	3.570	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	6028	6249	1.060	1.030	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	250	338	1.350	1.350	1.000
Holly Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	753	841	1.100	1.110	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	450	609	1.350	1.460	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	300	348	1.180	1.160	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	450	314	0.770	0.670	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	18125	14094	0.770	0.780	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	12169	7918	0.650	0.650	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	22824	8408	0.370	0.370	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	45150	7371	0.660	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jereo	18225	5285	0.790	0.790	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	29807	46828	1.560	1.540	1.000
Urbid District Electricity	50	45	0.900	0.900	1.000
Arab International Hotels	55930	44342	0.750	0.830	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	200	920	4.550	4.600	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	7700	7993	1.040	1.030	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	50	167	3.300	3.330	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	36823	18725	0.520	0.510	1.000
Jordan Dairy	3301	5115	0.940	0.960	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	18179	55251	2.910	2.940	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	101188	163998	1.580	1.600	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	2325	7793	3.300	3.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	8325	13552	1.600	1.600	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	12437	57935	4.500	4.670	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	2500	1750	0.970	0.950	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	28050	52213	1.800	1.840	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	42508	81721	1.920	1.900	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	10150	19430	1.800	1.950	1.000
Chemical Industries	17300	39307	2.280	2.210	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	11400	7910	0.690	0.690	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	11544	26524	2.330	2.340	1.000
National Steel Industries	8300	23096	2.710	2.770	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	176141	539249	2.720	3.180	5.000
General Mining	600	1260	2.200	2.100	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4554	36368	7.950	7.900	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	41700	8857	0.210	0.210	1.000
National Industries	14823	14230	0.950	0.960	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	100	44	0.420	0.430	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	15150	26798	1.810	1.770	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	14621	25630	1.660	1.750	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	100	191	1.820	1.910	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	34800	34828	0.970	0.990	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	3455	3509	1.020	1.030	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	90163	89767	1.050	0.990	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	29000	41952	1.450	1.420	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	30951	33980	1.080	1.100	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	29803	82277	2.760	2.740	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	38724	45160	1.180	1.150	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	6150	6212	1.020	1.010	1.000
Grand total	1,316,567	2,477,645			

Gorbachev urges support for farmers

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has urged the country to stand behind its farmers to eliminate food shortages which could undermine his reforms.

Gorbachev, in remarks broadcast on Soviet television Friday, said the success of agricultural reforms approved at a two-day Communist Party meeting depended on a general effort to change the face of the countryside.

"No one must remain on the sidelines," he said. "If we start to evade the issue... and abandon the farmers to themselves, then

the plenum and the discussions before it and the documents we approve won't be worth a penny."

The credibility of the country's leadership was on the line, he said, particularly after mixed successes in tackling problems in health care and engineering.

"If in practical terms we deal with farm problems in the same way, then we shall all be bankrupt before the people," he said just before the end of the meeting Thursday.

The party leadership declared itself united following the plenum, despite indications that dif-

ferences persisted between conservatives who back continued use of collective and state farms and other leaders calling for more radical reforms.

The proposals approved by the meeting have not been published, but in a speech opening the conference Gorbachev set out their broad outlines, including more use of land-leasing alongside the existing system and a programme to raise rural living standards.

He spoke of shortages which caused rural discontent and called for measures to reduce bureaucracy, including disbanding the giant Gosagroprom agroministry created just three years ago.

Accounts of the debate in Friday's edition of the party daily Pravda revealed some dissatisfaction, particularly on the part of leaders in the relatively advanced Baltic republics, who felt the measures did not go far enough.

During the debate party leaders of both Estonia and Lithuania called for radical steps to divide up collective farms into smaller, private ones, Pravda said.

Yegor Ligachev, a conservative

in charge of the Politburo's Agriculture Commission, told a news conference Thursday that he favoured collective farms until an alternative proved more effective.

Figures published by an agriculture expert in the party's monthly theoretical journal Kommunist underscored the extent of the food crisis facing the leadership.

Vladimir Miloserdov, a member of the Soviet Academy of Agriculture, wrote in the magazine that nearly one-third of Soviet food production never reached the consumer.

One million tonnes of meat was lost annually because of inadequate refrigeration or processing, food imports had risen sharply and 1.1 million people had left farming areas for the city in the past 17 years.

Wanting to see results

"People in an area can judge from what is on store shelves how efficient their local leaders are," Miloserdov wrote. "And they will not be fobbed off with figures in a report. They want to see results."

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Zamalek win over Sudanese champs

CAIRO (R) — A last-minute header by defender Nabil Mahmoud gave Egypt's Zamalek 2-1 victory against Sudan's Mawrada in a first leg, first round match of the Africa Champions Cup.

A successful counter-attack by Mawrada in the 12th minute relieved the few hundred Sudanese expatriates at Cairo stadium.

Forward Ahmed Breish received a cross outside the box and scored his team's only goal with a powerful shot to past the left of goalkeeper Ayman Taher.

Zamalek, who won the Africa Champions Trophy in 1984 and 1986, fought back with fierce attacks, but baste and the Sudanese champions' tight defence spoiled repeated thrusts.

Mawrada, defending with nine players to keep a clean net, mounted several cautious counter-attacks but Zamalek's experienced defenders had by then managed to recover their strength.

After halftime Zamalek changed its attack plan and relied more on sending cross balls into the penalty area.

The new tactic paid off. Twelve minutes into the second half, Zamalek star striker Jamal Abdel-Hamid headed home the equaliser from a perfect cross seven yards from goalkeeper Awad Dokah.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

McLaren to make high performance road cars

LONDON (R) — The Tug/McLaren group, owners of world champion Formula One motor racing team McLaren, has formed a new company to rival Ferrari in the creation of high performance road cars. In a statement, the company said it planned to "design and manufacture a unique high performance road car to reflect the quality and technology which has been the hallmark of McLaren international's world championship Formula One team."

Monaco's Ferratge banned for six months

PARIS (R) — Monaco midfielder Jean-Marc Ferratge, one of six players sent off in French first division matches last Saturday, was banned for six months Friday. A French league spokeswoman said that a video tape of Monaco's match against Nice "clearly showed that Ferratge jostle the referee twice." Both Ferratge and Manuel Amoros were sent off by referee Antoine De Pandis for disputing a penalty awarded to Nice. Ferratge was banned until September for mishandling the referee and verbal abuse. Amoros, French captain in the World Cup qualifier against Scotland earlier this month, was given a three-match suspension for unsporting behaviour and verbal abuse.

Graf and Evert advance to semis

BOCA RATON, Fla. (R) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf moved one step closer to winning one of the three titles that eluded her last year by overwhelming Canadian Helen Klesli to reach the Florida women's championship semifinals. Graf pounded the seventh-seeded Klesli 6-1, 6-1 as all the semifinals enjoyed easy passage in the \$300,000 tournament. Third-seeded Chris Evert advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 win over fellow-American Mary Joe Fernandez, the fifth seed, in a match that was briefly interrupted by rain in the final game. Graf next faces fourth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who put on an impressive serve-and-volley display in beating unseeded American Halle Cioffi 6-3, 6-2. Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who plays Evert in the semifinals, scored a 6-3, 6-2 win over American Terry Phelps, who upset defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in the third round.

Noah beats Agassi in a dashing display

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (R) — Yannick Noah of France put on a brilliant display of athletic agility to upset American Andre Agassi in the quarter-finals of the 702,500-dollar Indian Wells Grand Prix tournament Friday.

Noah, the 12th seed, ousted the third-seeded teenager 7-5, 6-4 in a match filled with dramatic points and good sportsmanship. The win lifted Noah into the semifinals against unseeded Jay Berger, who beat 10th-seeded fellow-American Brad Gilbert 6-4, 6-4. Berger upset top seed Boris Becker Thursday.

The other semifinal will have fourth-seeded Jimmy Connors against number seven Miloslav Meir of Czechoslovakia. Connors beat fellow-American Tim Mayotte, the sixth seed, 6-3, 6-3. Meir overcame 16th-seeded American Michael Chang 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Noah and Agassi traded breaks early in their quarter-final which contrasted the Frenchman's flamboyant serve-and-volley style with Agassi's powerful ground-stroke game. Agassi double-faulted twice in the 11th game to fall behind 6-5. Noah reached set point in the next game and seemed to win it when an Agassi return was called wide.

The umpire overruled the call — over the protests of both players, Agassi eventually took the microphone to explain to the



Shall I eat it? A flying Noah contemplates his next move in the good-natured battle against Agassi at Indian Wells Friday.

capacity crowd of 10,500 that he was yielding the point to Noah. That gave the Frenchman the set, 7-5.

There were more dramatics at deuce in the fifth game of the second set.

Twice Noah dived full length to retrieve apparent volley winners and he stretched again to win the point on his own forehead volley, leaving Agassi flat on his back in amazement. Noah held for 3-3, then broke Agassi in the next game.

Games then went on serve with Noah finishing the match with another forehand winner. "I was surprised and pleased," Noah said of Agassi's move to give him the set point. "He didn't have to give it to me."

World figure skating championships Soviets win with perfect 6

PARIS (AP) — Soviets Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko won their first ice dance title at the World Figure skating championships Friday with a slick, witty routine that earned them six perfect marks of 6.0.

Another Soviet couple, Maia Usova and Aleksandr Zhulin, won the silver with France's Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay moving up one place to snatch the bronze to tumultuous applause.

Earlier, American Jill Trenary recovered from a practice session that had her in tears to lead the women's event after the original programme portion, with just the free skating to come Saturday.

Klimova and Ponomarenko, runners-up four years in a row behind the now-retired Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin, needed only to play safe to take the gold after dominating the earlier sections of the ice dance competition.

Their humorous, light-hearted characterisation of the "Three Penny Opera" earned them five marks of 6.0 for artistic impression and one for technical merit.

But it was the French-Canadian Duchesnays team that had the partisan Parisian crowd —

and a noisy group of Canadians — on their feet with an eagerly awaited routine that had never previously been done in competition.

Their flowing, romantic programme, choreographed by former ice dance champion Christopher Dean, clinched the bronze medal ahead of Hungary's Klara Engi and Attila Toth, who slipped into fourth.

In their original set pattern routine, the Duchesnays lost crucial marks with an ambitious show that included a feathered boa and straw hat but failed to impress the judges.

The Duchesnays performed a theatrical programme to Paul McCartney's "Eleanor's dream." Usova and Zhulin, followed them with a more conventional dancing style to Chopin and held on to second place.

Trenary, in second place going into the original set pattern section, overtook Claudia Leistner of West Germany to grab the

overall lead in the women's event and Japan's Midori Ito moved up to third.

A few hours before her original programme, Trenary was in tears in her hotel room after falling repeatedly in practice.

"I had a nightmare practice. My coaches were ready to shoot me," the American said. "I felt lethargic, tired and unsure of myself. But I had a good cry, made some phone calls, played some cards and pulled myself together."

But after their performances, neither Leistner nor Trenary emerged as favourite for Saturday's gold medal.

That distinction fell to Japan's Ito, whose electrifying jumping earned two perfect marks of 6.0 and moved her up from sixth place after the compulsory figures to third.

"Unbelievable," Ito said. "I was only performing at 70 per cent and changed a triple-triple combination to a triple-double at the last minute because I didn't want to make a mistake."

Trenary said another error-free performance from the Japanese skater would earn her the gold in a winner-take-all showdown on Saturday between the top three.

Driver's wife slams doctors

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The wife of French Formula One driver Philippe Streiff attacked medical care at the Rio motor racing circuit where her husband crashed Wednesday and warned other drivers they were at risk.

Renee Streiff called the emergency medical care absurd. "I want to tell drivers who are arriving here, they are running risks," she told local journalists Thursday.

Streiff, 33, is in a serious condition in hospital after dislocating his spine and breaking a collar-bone and shoulder-blade in the high-speed crash during practice for next weekend's opening race here in the 1989 Formula One season.

Streiff's car flew over a guard-rail, breaking up and scattering debris which hit a fireman and a race-track worker.

Renee criticised race organisers for insisting on bringing a

medical team from Sao Paulo to treat her husband and delaying an essential operation for 12 hours after the crash.

Local radio reports Friday said Renee was considering suing race organisers if her husband did not fully recover.

Race organisers and medical officers declined to comment on her allegations.

Streiff, who was completely paralysed when he arrived in hospital, was operated on to ease pressure on the dislocated neck vertebrae. After the operation, Streiff was still without feeling in his arms and legs.

But surgeon Carlos Giesta said he was optimistic. Asked if Streiff was likely to stay paralysed, Giesta said: "I don't believe so. I think there's a good chance of recovery."

A French doctor specialising in motor racing injuries, Gerard Saillant, arrived in Rio Thursday

in check Streiff. He declined to comment on the accident.

Former world drivers' champion Nelson Piquet completed only 21 laps during Thursday's practice, stopping after feeling pain from a rib broken last month when he fell from a ladder on his luxury yacht in Italy.

Piquet said he was doing all possible to be fit for the Brazilian Grand Prix, but was unsure if he would manage to race on his home track because of the pain.

World champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil also tested briefly his new normally-aspirated Honda-powered McLaren.

Senna, who drove only five laps and clocked the slowest time of the day of one minute 41.54 seconds, said the new car needed small adjustments. He said the pedals were not correctly adjusted and the seat was uncomfortable.

Johnson scores 43 for Pistons

NEW YORK (AP) — Vinnie Johnson scored 14 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter as the Detroit Pistons beat the Boston Celtics 106-98 for their ninth straight victory.

Johnson scored 12 straight Pistons points and 14 of 16 during a five-minute stretch that helped Detroit end Boston's four-game winning streak.

The Pistons led 81-77 early in the fourth quarter when Johnson got hot, carrying Detroit to a 97-87 lead with 4:43 remaining.

Boston pulled closed the gap to 97-92 after a three-point play by Kevin McHale and a basket by Robert Parish, but Detroit got two free throws apiece from Joe Dumars and Rick Mahorn to make it 101-92 with 1:06 to go.

Dumars added 24 points for Detroit, and Isiah Thomas had

20, Parish led Boston with 20 points and McHale added 19.

Bernard King hit a fallaway 3-point shot with two seconds left in overtime as the Washington Bullets rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to defeat the New Jersey Nets 124-121.

Michael Jordan had 33 points and nine assists in his fourth straight game at point guard and Scottie Pippen scored 31 points, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 129-124 victory over the New York Knicks.

Karl Malone scored 31 points and John Stockton had 16 points and 15 assists as the Utah Jazz won their seventh straight game overall and 10th consecutive at home, 118-96 over the Miami Heat.

Kevin Johnson scored 20 of his game-high 39 points in the third

quarter as the Phoenix Suns beat the Portland Trail Blazers 124-124.

Magie Johnson's basket broke a 102-102 tie with 18 seconds remaining as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks 106-103 for their sixth straight victory.

Mitch Richmond scored 16 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and keyed a 13-4 overtime run as the Golden State Warriors beat the Atlanta Hawks 127-118.

Rex Chapman scored 15 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Kelly Tripucka added 18 points as the Charlotte Hornets ended a nine-game losing streak and a 10-game slide on the road with a 108-105 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TAKE THE ONLY CHANCE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ Q J 7 5
♦ 7 3
♣ Q 8 7 2

EAST
♠ 9 8 6 4 2
♥ A 9 4 3
♦ Q 10 6 5
♣ J 5

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 5
♥ Void
♦ A K 8 2
♣ A 9 6

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
3♥ Pass 4♠ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠. In bridge as in life, half the problem is understanding what you have to do to succeed. Once that is worked out, the solution becomes easier to find.

West found the best lead of a trump. With any other lead, such as a diamond, declarer could have won and immediately led a low club toward the queen. As the cards lie, he would have had just enough dummy entries to establish and cash a heart trick via a ruffing finesse. That was not a realistic option after the trump lead—the chances were too great

that the defender who won the club would remove dummy's last trump, stranding South with at least one diamond loser.

For the slam to get home, declarer first of all needed to place East with the ace of hearts. Next he would have to find either defender with both the king of clubs and queen of diamonds, or West with specifically the king of clubs and no more than three diamonds, and he would have to guess which holding existed.

Declarer won the first trick in the club, cashed the ace-king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. The king of hearts was covered by the ace and ruffed, and declarer drew the rest of trumps. West discarded two hearts and a club.

Declarer now had to divine the minor-suit distribution. There was one faint clue. A defender doesn't usually lead a singleton trump against a slam if he has any safe lead. South concluded that West led a trump because he didn't want to lead away from honors in the other suits. So declarer exited with a diamond.

In with the queen of diamonds, West had a choice of losing plays. Since a heart was certainly fatal, he chose a club. Declarer popped up with the queen and, when that held, declarer could claim 12 tricks—six trumps and a ruff, two clubs, two diamonds and a heart.

Cauthen: 'lucky with a broken neck'

NEWMARKET, England (R) — On Newmarket's quiet and wind-swept gallops a chival American rider sits in earnest for the first time since a sickening fall forced a seven-month break from the turf.

Steve Cauthen is back. The fall put three-time winner Cauthen out of the running for Britain's champion jockey title.

More significantly, he was fortunate to escape with his life when the three-year-old filly Preziosa came down suddenly and without warning on a summer afternoon at Goodwood.

Last week Cauthen woo the battle to return.

He recalled: "I was lucky to 'just walk' away with a broken neck."

Of his time off, he said: "You

get bored, it's frustrating. I missed good horses, but it's like they say — that's racing."

"I've been in the saddle of an exercise bike, but since the fall this was my first real ride out," the amiable Cauthen told Reuters after exercising two horses belonging to top trainer Henry Cecil.

The fractured neck was compounded by dental problems this year which put paid to hopes of casing into the curves of the British tracks by limbering up on Hong Kong's turf.

With less than three weeks to shape up before the British flat season begins, Cauthen conceded: "I'm not as fit as I'd like to be."

Time-out on his parents' stud farm in Kentucky pushed his

weight over the nine stone (57 kg) barrier feared by all flat race riders.

Although Cauthen has chafed it down to 8st 12lbs (56 kg), he still needs to shed five pounds (2.2 kg) to hit his target.

"I don't plan on trying to kill myself, nor on wasting too hard when the weather's so bad," said Cauthen.

"I prefer to stick to a decent regime — fruit, vegetables, chicken and fish... only less of them than I have been."

Cauthen's weight problem dates back to 1985. It led then to tiredness, depression, an inclination to drink too much and a spell in a health clinic.

He said: "The last few pounds are always the hardest. It's an every-day battle and will be that way for the rest of my life."

The two horses he exercised for Cecil were a steady two-year-old by Derby winner Secretor.

"Henry was making sure I had a couple of nice rides, nothing that whipped round too much or did anything crazy."

"I'm going to ease my way in," said Cauthen whose winter exercise has been confined to six weeks in the gym, gentle rides on the farm and being beaten by his mother at tennis.

The American intends to have his feet in the stirrups "on day one" of the season — on March 25.

"You don't look forward to the grind of getting it back together, but it might just be the best year I've ever had," Cauthen said.

Japanese captures figure skating title

PARIS (AP) — Midori Ito put on a stunning display of jumping to capture the first title ever for Japan at the world figure skating championships Saturday.

Ito earned five 6.0's for technical merit for a programme that included seven triple jumps. About 50 seconds into her routine, she did a triple axel, the first time it has been completed by a woman in the world championships.

Ito's programme won the plaudits of the crowd and judges. In addition to the 6.0's, she received four 5.9's for the technical merit marks. Her artistic impression scores were all 5.8's except for one 5.9.

The 19-year-old from Nagoya, Japan, shut the door on her opposition in a winner-take-all showdown in the final free skating, which counted 50 per cent of the total score. She was third entering the final routine.

Claudia Leistner of West Germany edged Jill Trenary of the United States for second. Both made a number of mistakes in

their routines as they battled for the silver.

Leistner fell early while Trenary completed just two triple jumps and scaled down two double axels into singles in her programme.

As her name was announced as gold medalist, Ito's face lit up as her turquoise and blue sequined costume sparked as much as she did.

Trenary's American teammate, Kristi Yamaguchi, skating in her first world championships, put on a strong performance to climb one place to sixth.

Ito put on a jumping exhibition that was stronger than she did last year at the Calgary Olympics, where she was fifth. She was sixth at last year's world championships.

This year, with the top three of last season retired it came down to a free skating battle between Ito, Leistner and Trenary.

It was no contest. "I had no pressure on me," Ito said. "I wanted to do my best."

Forecast for Sunday, March 19, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Conversation, family fun and short trips will mark this day as emotionally relaxing, but otherwise unproductive. Give yourself a break and enjoy yourself.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A slowdown of activities would be welcomed by a tired body. Emotional cycles remain high. Low key plans may be stimulating.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Avoid committing yourself to more than you can handle. Don't play all your cards just yet. Time will work to your advantage.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Some old problems need new solutions. Focus on financial status, career planning and personal expansion through education.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may have to back away from situations that interfere with your sense of security. Develop activities that get concrete results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) New situations on the homefront need to be adjusted. Things are working in your favor, even though you may not feel it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Jealousy and possessiveness can take a lot of energy out of an other-

wise enjoyable day. Time will solve some of these problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't stop now. You have the ball rolling and this is no time to rest. Use past accomplishments to spur you toward new goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Now is the time to lay plans for the future. Consult with loved ones and those close to you for ideas to fulfill your dreams and aspirations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Some misunderstandings interfere with plans. Using anger to straighten out confusion is not appropriate behavior to solve problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Social relations and romance are in full bloom. Take advantage of your own charismatic mode by developing relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A clandestine affair may seem attractive but calls for further thought. Extra energy has you ready to jump into action.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) A get-together at home should prove successful. You are wide open, inspired and yearning to escape the confines of everyday life.

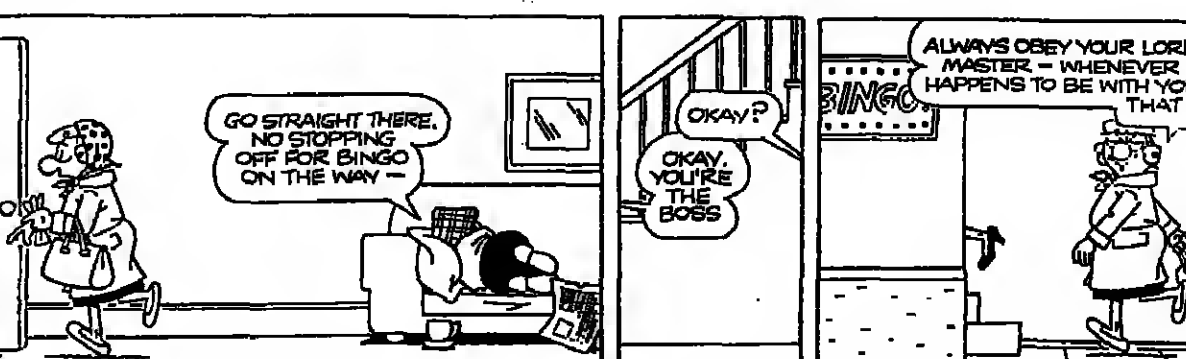
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris
HARRIS 3-20

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUBOD

CAUDT

LYMBAC

PERREF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: ROACH STICK LETHAL WEAKEN
Answer: What the man in charge of the doughnut factory said he was — THE "HOLE" WORKS

